

Mrs. Chapman's Weekly Newsletter

July 10, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a wonderful first week of school! If you visited our school recently, you will note that there are paws on the floors and all doors have labels. This is a result of the implementation of our new behavior program.

The slogan, "We ROAR for success at LES" will lead us through our best school year yet. You may want to ask your children what ROAR means. I know their responses will be:

R: Respect everybody and everything.

O: Own your actions.

A: Aim for success

R: Remember safety

We are practicing how to ROAR in the common areas of the hall, the cafeteria, the media center, the restrooms, at arrival and dismissal, and on the playground. We are using the same terminology so everyone will understand what is expected. So far, the children are doing a super job.

We had Kindergarten assessment this week for Tracks 1, 2, and 3. Oh my! What cutie pies we have coming to our school! Here are some of their clever responses to giving words that begin with certain letters. For J, I heard, "jock, you know those people who are into sports heavily." Another one I enjoyed was T. The word was time and then the big question came, "What time do I get out of here?" Yes, out of the mouths of babes.

We hope that you join us for our family picnic on July 25th. It will be held in the backyard from 5:00 – 7:30PM. Bring your food and blanket so you can sit back and listen to the DJ or watch your children enjoy the inflatables. If you are really brave, you may want to get up and share your smooth moves. This is such a wonderful occasion to get to know more families at our great school, Leesville Year Round Elementary. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Please mark your calendars for our Open House. Tracks 1, 2, and 3 Open House is on July 21st from 6:30 – 8:00PM. For Track 4, our Open House is August 11th from 6:30 – 8:00PM. You will meet with each of your children’s teachers as they share what your child is learning and the expectations for each grade level. This is not time for a conference. Please schedule those individually to preserve your child’s privacy.

On Wednesday afternoon for our PLC time, we met as a staff to discuss and review the important components of an effective PLC. We watched a video produced by Wake County to ensure that we were following the correct protocol for PLC’s. When this was completed, the PLC teams worked independently. Some of them finished establishing their norms, while other teams determined their focus and wrote a measureable goal, using data. It was a productive hour. On next Wednesday, each team will meet independent of other teams. I will be working with Kindergarten, First and Fifth grades. Ms. Brown, our Assistant Principal, will be working with Second and Fourth grades. Miss Sauers, our new half – time Assistant Principal, will be working with Third grade. Our Specialists will work with the grade levels giving a different perspective of the learning needs of our students. We are well on our way to maximizing this time in a productive manner that will enhance your child’s education. We focus on data, your child’s needs, best practices, developing common formative assessments, sharing effective teaching strategies and planning for team time, where each child is flex - leveled according to the data. We continuously ask ourselves the following questions which drive our PLC’s:

1. What is it that we want students to know?
2. How do we know if they know it?
3. What do we do if they don’t know it or do know it?

Each week, I will give you specific information about what is happening during our PLC time. Stay tuned.

I wish you a restful, family – focused weekend.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Chapman, Principal